

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are currently pending in this application, as amended. By the present amendment, the claims have been amended to remove the parenthetical reference to element numbers from the claims. No substantive changes have been made by the present amendments and no new matter has been introduced to the claims. The present amendment was briefly discussed with the Examiner on April 25, 2007, and it was noted that the Examiner may not have considered the Preliminary Amendment originally filed with this application. Applicant notes that this Preliminary Amendment was also addressed only to formalities and no substantive changes were made to independent claim 1 from that provided by the translation of the PCT application. Applicants specifically refer the Examiner to claims 3 and 5, in the Preliminary Amendment where minor changes were made to the claims in order to address formalities and grammar in addition to deleting the characterizing language common in European practice that was address throughout the Preliminary Amendment.

It is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered in order to avoid any further confusion with respect to that the status of the claims and in order to remove the parenthetical reference numbers which are considered either optional or objectionable in U.S. practice.

Applicant: Peschke et al.
Application No.: 10/540,452

If there are any questions raised by the present 312 Amendment, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

After entry of this 312 Amendment, issuance of the patent based on the allowed claims will be awaited by Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

Peschke et al.

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